

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing point-to-multipoint services in a mobile communication network, said method comprising:

receiving from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service, said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

defining accounting information associating said subscriber identifier with said point-to-multipoint service identifier;

storing said accounting information placing the subscriber in association with the identified point-to-multipoint service within a point-to-multipoint (PTM) service management entity;

performing an access enabling procedure, and

providing said accounting information to an accounting entity of said mobile communication network in which ~~accounting~~ charging data for the point-to-multipoint service is ~~performed~~ provided considering a total number of subscribers who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information identifying the subscriber who placed the request together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested, wherein said charging data is used for billing the provider of the point-to-multipoint service depending on the number of the subscribers receiving the service.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in addition to identifying said point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information indicates a number of subscribers, said indicated number corresponding to all or a predetermined

part of the subscribers currently stored in association with said point-to-multipoint service.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said accounting information depends on the indicated number of subscribers.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said accounting information comprises billing and a billing tariff decreases with an increasing indicated number of subscribers.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said accounting information comprises payment and a payment tariff increases with an increasing indicated number of subscribers.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said accounting is also performed on the basis of the amount of data transported.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said accounting is performed differently for data transported from the mobile communication network to the mobile station than for data transported from the mobile station to the mobile communication network.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein billing is only performed for data transported from the mobile communication network to the mobile station or performed for data transported from the mobile station to the mobile communication network.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein after performing said access enabling procedure,

waiting for the receipt of a service access confirmation, and said accounting information is only provided to said accounting entity if said service access confirmation is received.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the subscriber identifications and associated point-to-multipoint service identifications are stored in a centralized point-to-multipoint service data base for said mobile communication network.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a classification of point-to-multipoint services into categories is provided, said accounting information identifying the category of the point-to-multipoint service, and said accounting of the point-to-multipoint service is performed depending on the identified category.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
storing one or more counter values in association with said stored subscriber identification and/or point-to-multipoint service identification.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
providing said one or more counter values as a part of said accounting information.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said one or more counter values comprise one or more of the following:

a time counter value associated with said stored subscriber identification, indicating a time period that has passed since receiving said request from said subscriber,

a time counter value associated with said stored point-to-multipoint service identification, indicating a time period that has passed since receiving a first request identifying said point-to-multipoint service,

an event counter value associated with said stored subscriber identification, indicating a number of predetermined events that have occurred since receiving said request from said subscriber, and

an event counter value associated with each stored point-to-multipoint service identification, indicating a number of predetermined events that have occurred since receiving said first request identifying said point-to-multipoint service.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said access enabling procedure comprises:

sending an enable signal to a service provision control entity.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said access enabling procedure comprises:

sending one or more decryption keys to the mobile station from which the request for accessing said point-to-multipoint service was sent.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein an individual decryption key is provided in dependence on one or more of:

each stored subscriber identification,

each stored point-to-multipoint service identification, and

each pair of a subscriber identification and point-to-multipoint service identification stored in association.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said one or more decryption keys are generated dynamically in response to receiving said request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program, the computer program for managing point-to-multipoint services in a mobile communication network, the computer program comprising:

instructions for receiving from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service, said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested,

instructions for defining accounting information associating said subscriber identifier with said point-to-multipoint service identifier;

instructions for storing said accounting information placing the subscriber in association with the identified point-to-multipoint service within a point-to-multipoint (PTM) service management entity;

instructions for performing an access enabling procedure, and

instructions for providing said accounting information to an accounting entity of said mobile communication network in which ~~accounting~~ charging data for the point-to-multipoint service is ~~performed~~ provided considering a total number of subscribers who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information identifying the subscriber who placed the request together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested, wherein said charging data is used for billing the provider of the point-to-multipoint service depending on the number of the subscribers receiving the service.

20. (Currently Amended) An accounting entity of a mobile communication network, said accounting entity comprising:

a receiver for receiving accounting information, said accounting information identifying a subscriber placing a request for a point-to-multipoint service, and identifying a point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested wherein said accounting information further associating said subscriber identifier with said point-to-multipoint service identifier by a point-to-multipoint service data base entity; and

a processor for ~~performing accounting~~ providing charging data for the point-to-multipoint service identified in the accounting information considering a total number of subscribers who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service and wherein said charging data is used for

billing the provider of the point-to-multipoint service depending on the number of the subscribers receiving the service, wherein said processor is arranged such that if said accounting information indicates the number of subscribers corresponding to all or a predetermined part of the subscribers currently stored by said point-to-multipoint service data base entity in association with said point-to-multipoint service, said accounting charging data depends on the indicated number of subscribers.

21. (Previously Presented) The accounting entity according to claim 20 wherein said point-to-multipoint service data base entity comprises:

a receiver for receiving from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service, said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested, and

a processor for providing said accounting information to said accounting entity of said mobile communication network, said accounting information identifying the subscriber placing the request, together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested.

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